

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows.

Claims 1-62. (Canceled)

63. (Previously Presented) An isolated HCV polynucleic acid which is chosen from the group consisting of:

- (i) the nucleotide sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:51,
- (ii) a nucleotide sequence comprising at least 60 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:51 and
- (iii) the complement of the polynucleic acid of (i) or (ii).

Claim 64. (Canceled)

65. (Previously Presented) An isolated HCV polynucleic acid which is selected from:

- (i) a polynucleic acid encoding an HCV polyprotein comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 52, 138, 155, 174, and 190,
- (iii) or the complement of the polynucleic acid of (i).

66. (Currently Amended) A recombinant polypeptide encoded by a polynucleic acid according to claim 63 or claim 65 to any of claims 63 to 65.

67. (Currently Amended) A method for production of a recombinant polypeptide, comprising:

-transformation of an appropriate cellular host with a recombinant vector, in which a polynucleic acid according to claim 63 or claim 65 to any of claims 63 to 65 has been inserted under the control of the appropriate regulatory elements, the polynucleic acid thus being an insert,

-culturing said transformed cellular host under conditions enabling the expression of said insert, and

-harvesting said polypeptide.

68. (Currently Amended) A recombinant expression vector comprising a polynucleic acid according to claim 63 or claim 65 any of claims 63 to 65 operably linked to prokaryotic, eukaryotic or viral transcription and translation control elements.

69. (Previously Presented) An isolated host cell transformed with a recombinant vector according to claim 68.

70. (Currently Amended) An isolated peptide encoded by a polynucleic acid according to claim 65 any of claims 64 to 65.